

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 05920 180340 Z

13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

OMB-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /103 W
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R 180258 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6960
INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 5920

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ID

SUBJECT: GENERAL NASUTION CRITICIZES MILITARY LEADERSHIP'S LUXURY
LIVING

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

SUMMARY: GENERAL ABDUL HARIS NASUTION SAID MAY 15 THAT THE
LUXURIOUS STYLE OF LIVING CURRENTLY PRACTICED BY THE NATIONS' MILI-
TARY LEADERSHIP VIOLATES " THE TRUE PRINCIPLES OF THE INDONESIAN
ARMED FORCES," WHICH REQUIRE OFFICERS TO LIVE " SIMPLY,
ECONOMICALLY, AND WITHOUT EXCESS." END SUMMARY

1. THE FORMER ARMY CHIEF AND EX- CHAIRMAN OF THE MPRS MADE THESE
CRITICAL REMARKS TO JOURNALISTS AFTER A MEMORIAL SERVICE IN BANDUNG
MARKING THE FORTIETH DAY FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF COLONEL ANUMERTA
GUNAWAN, THE INDONESIAN OFFICER KILLED IN THE DOWNING OF THE ICCS
HELICOPTER IN VIETNAM IN EARLY APRIL. HIS COMMENTS WERE REPORTED
IN THE HEADLINE ARTICLE IN INDONESIA RAYA MAY 17.

2. NASUTION, WHO WILL SHORTLY RETIRE FROM THE ARMY AFTER REACHING
THE MANDATORY AGE OF 55, WARNED THAT " LUXURY LIVING BY A VERY
SMALL SEGMENT OF SOCIETY ONLY WIDENS THE GAP BETWEEN RICH AND
POOR."
HE SAID THAT " EXCESSIVE LIVING IS MORE CONSPICUOUS NOW THAN IT WAS
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PAGE 02 JAKART 05920 180340 Z

IN THE 1960' S," AND CALLED ON ARMY OFFICERS " NOT TO FORGET THEIR
NOBLE IDEALS OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE AND THE NATION." END
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COMMENT : NASUTION' S HARSH AND TELLING COMMENTS ABOUT HIS OLD ABRI
COLLEAGUES IS THE SHARPEST PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THE MILITARY
LEADERSHIP WE RECALL HIM MAKING IN RECENT YEARS. THE FACT THAT HIS
REMARKS IN THIS CASE HAVE APPEARED THUS FAR ONLY IN INDONESIA RAYA
(PERHAPS THE BOLDEST AND MOST CRITICAL OF THE INDEPENDENT DAILIES),
MAY SIMPLY REFLECT THE FACT THAT HE WAS SPEAKING IN BANDUNG, RATHER
THAN IN JAKARTA. HOWEVER, NASUTION TOLD SENATOR PERCY IN DECEMBER,
1972 THAT HE BELIEVES THE GOVERNMENT HAS WARNED THE PRESS NOT TO
REPORT HIS CRITICAL STATEMENTS. POSSIBLY THIS IS THE REASON WHY
THE GENERAL' S NEWSWORTHY COMMENTS OF MAY 15 DID NOT RECEIVE WIDER
COVERAGE.
GALBRAITH

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NMAFVVZCZ

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